

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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DO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8361

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MONROVIA 1532

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)

SUBJECT: PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT DURING THE MONROVIA
STOP

REF: STATE 048398

1. PROPOSED TEXTS FOR PRESIDENTIAL ARRIVAL STATEMENT
AND LUNCHEON TOAST FLOWW:

ARRIVAL STATEMENT

BEGIN TEXT:

PRESIDENT TOLBERT

MR. VICE PRESIDENT

MR. SPEAKER

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE

MR. PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE

MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

LIBERIA WAS BORN AS A RESULT OF MAN'S ETERNAL QUEST FOR HIS
INALIENABLE RIGHTS--HUMAN RIGHTS. THE FREED BLACK AMERICANS
WHO CAME HERE IN THE 1800'S LEFT AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE SLAVERY
STILL EXISTED AND WHERE THEY--ALTHOUGH FREED--FELT KEENLY THE
LIMITATION ON THEIR BASIC RIGHTS. THEY JOINED HERE IN LIBERIA
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WITH OTHERS WHO ALSO SUFFERED FROM INJUSTICE AND DEPRIVATION AND
WHO LONGED FOR A BETTER LIFE. THE TWO STREAMS UNITED TO FORM THE
FIRST INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC SOUTH OF THE SAHARA--AND ONE OF THE
VERY FEW NATIONS IN AFRICA NEVER TO HAVE EXPERIENCED COLONIZATION
BY A EUROPEAN POWER. THE REPUBLIC HAS SINCE BECOME A FORCEFUL
CRUSADER FOR THE RIGHTS OF MAN THROUGHOUT AFRICA AND THE WORLD.

MY PRESENCE HERE TODAY IS PARTLY IN RECOGNITION OF THE HISTORICAL TIES WHICH WILL BIND US FOREVER. IT IS ALSO PARTLY IN RECOGNITION OF THE LEADING ROLE WHICH LIBERIA HAS COME TO PLAY IN THE INEXORABLE MOVEMENT OF ALL PEOPLES OF THE WORLD TOWARD WIDER FREEDOMS--POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL.

THIS FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT BY AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT IS LONG OVERDUE. FOUR PRESIDENTS OF LIBERIA HAVE VISITED THE UNITED STATES, THE LAST BEING YOURSELF, MR. PRESIDENT, WHEN YOU MADE A STATE VISIT AT THE TIME OF THE U.S. BICENTENNIAL IN 1976. FOR OUR PART, PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT IN 1943 STOPPED HERE AT ROBERTSFIELD ON HIS RETURN TO THE U.S. FROM CASABLANCA, AT WHICH TIME HE MET AND TALKED WITH YOUR PRESIDENT BARCLAY. AT THAT TIME, THE DEMOCRACIES WERE IN A DESPERATE STRUGGLE WITH TOTALITARIAN FORCES AND, THROUGH THE COOPERATION OF THE LIBERIAN GOVERNMENT, ROBERTSFIELD WAS IMPROVED AND MADE INTO AN IMPORTANT WAY-STATION FOR THE SHIPMENT OF URGENTLY REQUIRED SUPPLIES.

NOW--35 YEARS LATER--MAN'S UNENDING STRUGGLE FOR HIS BASIC RIGHTS CONTINUES. PRESIDENT WILLIAM R. TOLBERT CALLS IT--IN ITS DOMESTIC ASPECT--THE STRUGGLE AGAINST IGNORANCE, DISEASE AND POVERTY. MY PEOPLE ARE PROUD TO JOIN WITH LIBERIANS IN THIS STRUGGLE THROUGH THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO OUR BILATERAL AID PROGRAM WHICH HAS BEEN AVERAGING \$12-15 MILLION ANNUALLY AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO MULTILATERAL AID PROGRAMS UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT CONFIDENTIAL

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PROGRAM AND THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION. OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS AGREE THAT THESE EFFORTS SHOULD BE FOCUSED ON THE POOR, AND THAT THE EMPHASIS SHOULD BE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION AND HEALTH. WE ARE PLEASED TO HAVE OVER 200 PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS IN LIBERIA, MOST OF THEM SERVING OUTSIDE OF URBAN AREAS.

ALL AROUND THE WORLD, THE FIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WILL CONTINUE. IT CONTINUES IN THE UNITED STATES--AND WE ARE MAKING REMARKABLE PROGRESS, BUT RECOGNIZE WE CAN AND MUST DO MORE. IT CAN BE SEEN IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, THERE ARE PEOPLES SUFFERING TRAGIC AND INHUMAN VIOLATIONS OF THEIR BASIC RIGHTS AS HUMANS. IF THERE IS A NATION WHICH HAS ACHIEVED PERFECTION IN THIS FIELD, I DON'T KNOW IT. WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THE RECOGNITION OF THE UNIVERSAL APPLICABILITY OF THESE HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE DETERMINATION TO KEEP PRESSING FOR THEIR REALIZATION. LIBERIA HAS LONG BEEN IN THE FOREFRONT OF THIS FIGHT. ITS EXISTENCE AS THE SOLE INDEPENDENT NATION SOUTH OF THE SAHARA WAS FOR MANY YEARS A POWERFUL EXAMPLE TO AFRICAN NATIONALISTS. TODAY, PRESIDENT WILLIAM R. TOLBERT CONTINUES THE TRADITION OF LIBERIAN LEADERSHIP IN THE SEARCH ON THIS CONTINENT FOR INDEPENDENCE, JUSTICE AND PEACE. FOR THIS REASON, I FEEL DEEP

PRIDE IN BEING HERE THIS MORNING WITH YOU, PRESIDENT TOLBERT, AND ASSOCIATING MYSELF WITH YOUR PHILOSOPHY OF CONCILIATION AND MODERATION. I AM CONVINCED THAT YOUR STATEMANSHIP CONTRIBUTED IN NO SMALL DEGREE TO THE GATHERING OF WEST AFRICAN LEADERS IN MONROVIA ON MARCH 16, A GATHERING WHICH HEARALDS A NEW ERA OF MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COOPERATION AMONG THE NATIONS REPRESENTED HERE THAT DAY.

SIMILARLY, YOUR MEETINGS WITH THE NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE GENERAL OBASANJO HERE ON THE 19TH AND 20TH OF FEBRUARY SYMBOLIZED WHAT WAS THEN DESCRIBED AS THE BLENDING OF LIBERIA'S "POLITICAL EXPERIENCE AND WISDOM" WITH NIGERIA'S POWER AS THE "MOST POPULATED AND RICHEST AFRICAN COUNTRY" IN A JOINT CRUSADE FOR THE LIBERATION OF AFRICA. (FYI: ONE THEME FOR THE PRESIDENT

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TO USE IN BOTH COUNTRIES COULD BE WORKED AROUND THIS CONCEPT OF THE POTENTIAL WITHIN AFRICA ITSELF FOR THE AFRICANS THEMSELVES TO SOLVE PROBLEMS OF THE CONTINENT.)

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MONROVIA 1532

IN CLOSING, I WANT TO REITERATE THE JOY AND PRIDE I FEEL IN BEING HERE ON AN AFRICAN VISIT TO THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA AND TO ASSURE YOU OF OUR CONTINUED ENTHUSIASTIC COOPERATION WITH YOU IN SEEKING A BETTER AND MORE SECURE LIFE FOR ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD.
END TEXT OF ARRIVAL STATEMENT.

LUNCHEON TOAST

BEGIN TEXT

PRESIDENT TOLBERT

MR. VICE PRESIDENT

MR. SPEAKER

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE

MR. PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE

MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE WARMTH OF YOUR RECEPTION FOR US TODAY.

I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT ALL OF US FULLY RECIPROCATE THE
SENTIMENTS WHICH YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, HAVE EXPRESSED SO
ELOQUENTLY. WE HAVE JUST VISITED THREE CAPITALS ON TWO
CONTINENTS. WE HAVE MET WITH PEOPLES WITH WHOM WE SHARE THE SAME
BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURE OF MAN AND OF THE PROPER
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RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MAN AND THE STATE. HERE IN LIBERIA WE NOT
ONLY SHARE THIS SAME BASIC UNDERSTANDING BUT WE HAVE A PARTICULAR
CLOSENESS BEQUEATHED TO US BY OUR HISTORICAL LINKS. FOR THAT
REASON, I THINK WE ALL SENSE A CERTAIN EMOTIAONAL WARMTH IN
OUR RELATIONS WHICH IS UNIQUE.

MR. PRESIDENT, EARLIER I MENTIONED OUR ADMIRATION FOR YOUR
DEDICATION TO THE CAUSE OF BRINGING A BETTER LIFE TO YOUR
PEOPLE. YOU HAVE BEEN TIRELESS IN STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF
BRINGING BENEFITS TO THE RURAL AND URBAN POOR. BUILDING ON THE
EXAMPLE OF YOUR PREDECESSOR, THE RENOWNED WILLIAM V.S. TUBMAN,
YOU HAVE CONTINUOUSLY SOUGHT TO ERADICATE THE DIVISIVE INFLUENCE
OF TRIBALISM AND SECTIONALISM AND TO BRING LIBERIANS OF ALL
BACKGROUNDS MORE AND MORE INTO THE MAINSTREAM. TO ACCOMPLISH
THIS, NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN TO BRING LEARNINGS TO THE
FAR CORNERS OF THE COUNTRY. YOUR SUCCESSES HERE ARE
EXTRAORDINARY. WE AMERICANS ARE PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO BE
ASSOCIATED WITH YOU IN THIS WORK THROUGH OUR AID MISSION, THROUGH
THE PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS WHO LIVE AND TEACH AMONG YOUR PEOPLE,
THROUGH THE EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES SPONSORED BY THE U.S. INFORMATION
SERVICE, AND THROUGH THE U.S. EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL
FOUNDATION. I SHOULD ALSO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE MISSIONARIES--OF
MANY NATIONALITIES--WHO HAVE SPEND LIFETIMES IN LIBERIA DEDICATED
TO SPREADING LEARNING AMONG THE PEOPLE.

AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURS AND INVESTORS HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT

AND POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF LIBERIA. THEY
HAVE HELPED TO BRING PHYSICAL GROWTH AND HAVE HAD A PART IN
DEVELOPING TALENT AMONG LIBERIANS IN REALIZATION OF THE GOAL

CHERISHED BY ALL CITIZENS--THE LIBERIANIZATION OF THE ECONOMY.

I COMMEND YOUR DETERMINATION TO DEAL WITH CORRUPTION, WHICH YOU
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HAVE DESCRIBED AS A MAJOR OBSTACLE TO RAPID DEVELOPMENT. I WISH
YOUR NATIONAL FORCE FOR THE ERADICATION OF CORRUPTION EVER-
MOUNTING SUCCESSES IN ITS WORK.

WE SHARE WITH YOU DEEP CONCERN OVER YOUR RELIANCE UPON EXPORT
OF TWO ITEMS, IRON ORE AND RUBBER, AND ARE PLEASED TO BE
IDENTIFIED WITH YOUR EFFORTS TO DEVELOP AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION
AND TO STIMULATE INVESTMENT.

AT THE SAME TIME THAT YOU ARE FIGHTING AGAINST IGNORANCE, POVERTY
AND DISEASE AT HOME, YOU ARE ENGAGING IN A NOBLE EFFORT WORLD-
WIDE ON BEHALF OF PEACE, SEEKING THE UPLIFTMENT OF OPPRESSED
NATIONALITIES EVERYWHERE.

I MENTIONED ON MY ARRIVAL THE SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE OF
THE RECENT VISITS TO MONROVIA OF HIS EXCELLENCY SEKOU TOURE,
PRESIDENT OF ONE OF AFRICA'S LEADING SOCIALIST NATIONS, AND OF
GENERAL OBASANJO, HEAD OF STATE OF ONE OF AFRICA'S MOST POPULOUS
AND PROSPEROUS NATIONS. LIBERIA HAS ALWAYS BEEN A BRIDGE BETWEEN
THE LARGE AND THE SMALL, AND THE IDEOLOGICALLY SEPARATE. SHE
IS A CHARTER MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS, A FOUNDER OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN STATES, AND A MEMBER OF THE OAU GOOD
OFFICES COMMISSION SEEKING APEACEFUL RESOLUTION FOR THE PROBLEMS
IN THE HORN OF AFRICA.

THE MAN WHO IS LEADING LIBERIA TO SUCCESSES ON BOTH THE FRONTS
IS AN EXTRAORDINARY PERSON. HIS SLOGAN, "TOTAL INVOLVEMENT,"
DESERVES TO BE THE WATCHWORD OF FREE PEOPLES EVERYWHERE. I ASK
YOU TO RAISE YOUR GLASSES IN A TOAST TO HIS EXCELLENCY
PRESIDENT WILLIAM R. TOBERT, JR.
END TEXT OF LUNCHEON TOAST.
CARTER

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